

Longmeadow Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2021
Remote Meeting

The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 6:15 p.m. The following members were present: Chairman David Marinelli, Tree Warden Rick Mastroianni, Steve Steiner, Kathy Kucab, Mark Tolosky and Bari Jarvis. Absent was Patrick Carnahan. Also present was Longmeadow resident Lou Kornet.

Public comments-Citizen Lou Kornet reported that he has reached out to ReGreen Springfield in an attempt to identify Longmeadow residents who might want to get involved in our tree activities. There has been no response to date.

Tree Warden Report and Old Business: Tree Warden Rick Mastroianni reported that there was \$23,600 left in this year's budget for removals and trimming. Rick also noted that we are awaiting \$10,000 reimbursement from the DCR for plantings. It is hoped that we will receive this in time for spring planting.

Rick also reported that he had surveyed the stock that had been recently planted, and that most looked quite healthy. He has been doing some tree trimming on the green.

There is no new information on the Rte.5/Converse Street revisions.

There is no new information regarding our 2021DCR application. Dave noted that it is unusual to be awarded a repeat grant.

Wolf Swamp School is the designated school this year for planting on Arbor Day. Dave has initiated contact with the school.

It is still uncertain whether Long Meddowe Days will be held this year. Dave has received the New Hampshire State Forest nursery catalog. Tree seedlings can be obtained for under \$1 each. Sugar maples are usually in high demand. If Long Meddowe Days is cancelled, the seedlings will be drive-by distributed or heeled in at the community garden for people to claim, depending on covid precautions then in place.

As for spring planting, Dave has heard from the nursery in New York that has previously provided bare root trees, inquiring as to our interest again this year. Dave will respond. Rick indicated that he anticipates numerous requests for tree plantings again this year.

There was a discussion about continuing with the windshield survey. Rick will discuss the status with Assistant Tree Warden, Josh Abbott, and his availability to drive a town truck in the process.

It was reported that all of the trees impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer have been removed or treated over the last two years. Contact will be made with Don Pease of Northern Tree to ascertain whether we could realistically get a third year of protection from the initial treatment. Treatment is more affordable than removal, and most trees that were treated appear to be doing well. While the middle to long term prospects for survival are uncertain, it is hoped that we can extend the presence of the maximum number of trees possible.

New Business: The Annual Report of the Committee has been circulated to the members by the Chairman. There were no suggestions for changes. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the Annual Report and submit it to the town. A copy is attached.

The Chairman circulated an amended set of minutes for the December meeting. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting date for the committee would be **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6 p.m.** There being no further business, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting.
Minutes recorded by Mark Tolosky.

Longmeadow Tree Committee 2020 Annual report

To the Honorable Select Board:

In calendar year 2020, 201 dead, diseased or interfering trees were removed from Longmeadow's public ways, decreased from 273 removals in 2019. This total also includes trees lost in three storm events. Hazardous limbs were pruned from 87 public shade trees, down from 114 in 2019. 224 tree stumps were ground, up from 88 in 2019.

Two hundred sixty-nine trees of 43 distinct species or hybrids were planted along public ways, on the Longmeadow Green and on several traffic islands, increased from 254 trees planted in 2019. Most trees were planted in response to resident requests after street tree removal.

Longmeadow's street tree inventory is complete and unfortunately reveals that we have lost about 6,000 public shade trees over the last two decades. At year end, there were 9,209 public shade trees standing on our rights of way. The Tree Committee recommends that the town plants replacement trees at the same rate that trees are lost in order to maintain our valuable tree canopy. There is a searchable map of our tree inventory online, with links from the Longmeadow Tree Committee webpage, and the Longmeadow Public Shade Tree Facebook page.

We continue to identify and remove public shade trees that pose a risk to the community because of decay or inappropriate species. Every Ash tree in a right of way has been assessed and either removed or treated for the Emerald Ash Borer. The 13 largest American Elm trees were treated to prevent Dutch Elm Disease.

Arbor Day was celebrated with the planting of a dogwood tree on the grounds of Blueberry Hill School. Every fourth-grade student in town was offered a Fraser Fir tree sapling in a covid-safe drive-by distribution. The trees were generously donated by members of Longmeadow Gardeners. 2020 was the 55th consecutive year that the Gardeners participated in the sapling distribution. This year, Gardeners on the Green also generously donated their time. In lieu of tree sapling distributions at Long Meddowe Days, Bald Cypress, Northern Pecan, Shagbark Hickory and Beach Plum sapling trees were distributed in a covid-safe manner at the Community Gardens. Because of this and other citizen support of our trees, Longmeadow received its 18th Tree City USA award in 2020.

I thank all the workers and leaders of the Department of Public Works for making this result possible. Members of the Tree Committee are gratefully acknowledged for donating their time and expertise. I especially thank our two garden clubs: Longmeadow Gardeners and Gardeners on the Green for all they have done to maintain and improve our suburban canopy. Lastly, thank you to all residents who brought defective trees to our attention, or who volunteered to plant or care for public shade trees.

Respectfully submitted,
David Marinelli, Tree Warden (retired) and Chairman of the Tree Committee
Richard Mastroianni, Tree Warden